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Director of Central Intelligence

Top Secret

[redacted]

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[redacted]

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National Intelligence Daily

Saturday
12 February 1983

Top Secret

CPAS NID 83-037JX

[redacted]

12 February 1983

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ARGENTINA: Coup Plotting

3.3(b)(1) [redacted]

Army officers plan to remove President Bignone and Army Commander Nicolaides within about a week. The move is to be led by colonels and [redacted] generals who are angered by the regime's mismanagement of the transition to civilian rule and its failure to deal with corruption in the military. A group of civilian politicians attracted by promises of an earlier election reportedly back the plot. [redacted]

3.3(b)(1)
3.5(c)

Comment: Periodic coup rumors reflect the belief among the military that Bignone will be increasingly unable to control the regime's opponents as elections approach. At this time, however, factional divisions in the military probably will prevent the consensus that would be necessary for a successful coup. The junta that put Bignone in power, however, may try to reduce growing dissatisfaction in the military by replacing him with someone they believe better able to manage the transition. [redacted]

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